THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the sinister designs of ISI of Pakistan to destabilise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country. The Police and intelligence organisations are under instructions to neutralise Pak ISI activities in all parts of the country whenever these come to notice. Also a series of steps have been taken including legal measures and diplomatic initiatives to curb and contain terrorist and criminal activities.

Killings of Dalits in Rajasthan

791. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 28th April, 1998 under the caption "when cruelty raised its ugliest face" reporting the barbaric killings of dalits in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government with regard thereto;

(c) whether any directive has been given to the State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) The Government has seen the news-item referred to in part (a) of the question. The matter has been taken up with the State Government.

Killings of Civilians in Ethnic Clashes in Assam

792. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some militant groups like ULFA and Bodo during ethnic clashes have been killing several innocent people including tribals for more than four years;

(b) if so, the number of people killed by each group category-wise, each year;

(c) whether Government of Assam is incapable of maintaining law and order in the State thus risking the lives of law abiding citizens of the State;

(d) whether Government propose to take some action against the State Government in terms of provisions of the Constitution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Bodo militants particularly NDFB have been indulging in ethnic violence since 1993.

(b) The estimated number of persons killed by Bodo militants in the last five years, year-wise is given below:—

Year	No. of persons killed
1993	25
1994	85
1995	50
1996	260
1997	90

(c) to (e) The Government of Assam has taken various steps to bring the law and order situation under control. Additional security forces have been deployed in the affected areas. The situation is under constant watch and review.

The State Government has also set up 18 relief camps and is providing relief materials including food. It has also announced payment of Rs. 1 lakh to next of kith and kin of each of the deceased and Rs. 10,000/- to each family whose houses had been burnt down.

Government of India is keeping a close watch on the situation and rendering necessary assistance to Government of Assam.

Punishment for Dowry Giver and Takers

793. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has suggested that severe punishment be given to givers and takers of dowry;

(b) whether it has also been suggested that strict laws be framed to ban remarriage of those men whose wives had been burnt for dowry;

(c) whether these suggestions also include tough anti-dowry laws and celebration of year 1999 as 'Dowry-less' year;

(d) whether Government are committed to remove such social stigma in the society; and